

# CLEAN AND SAFE COOKING: Improving Technology and Saving Lives

## BY THE NUMBERS

**3 billion**

Nearly 3 billion people worldwide use solid fuels as their main source of household energy

**4 million**

Over 4 million people die prematurely each year from illnesses associated with household air pollution

**80%-90%**

In many countries, 80% to 90% of the population use solid fuels as their main source of household energy

## The Issue

Three billion people in low- and middle-income countries use solid fuels like wood, charcoal, animal dung, and crop waste for cooking as well as heating and lighting their homes.

Long term exposure to smoke from these fuels has been shown to cause cataracts, birth defects, and premature death associated with childhood pneumonia, lung cancer, chronic respiratory diseases, and cardiovascular diseases such as heart disease and stroke.

Reducing exposure to these fuels and introducing cleaner and safer cooking options is a critical investment in improving public health and the quality of life worldwide.

“For too long, cooking has been a silent killer in developing countries around the world. Thanks to the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves and its many partners, millions more people are now using clean and efficient cookstoves and fuels. We must continue to build on this new momentum and ensure solving this problem remains a global priority.”

Kofi Annan, Former UN Secretary General

*The use of open fires and inefficient cookstoves lead to significant loss of life. Clean cookstoves and fuels have the potential to reduce air pollution and deaths from smoke-related illnesses. Photo by Nigel Bruce*



## CDC's Response

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) works with the Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves, ministries of health, and other partners to save lives, empower women, and protect the environment. Partners work collaboratively to monitor and evaluate health hazards caused by indoor air pollutants, and promote cleaner, safer, affordable and more efficient cooking technologies and fuels to low- and middle-income countries.



## CDC'S Response (continued)

**Kenya:** CDC evaluated how six different improved cookstoves reduced exposure to air pollutants and gathered information about household preference and use. Results of this study showed a need to further explore cleaner alternative fuels and technologies.

**Guatemala:** CDC works with partners to evaluate the use of liquefied petroleum gas stoves in communities where women entrepreneurs are being employed to market and sell stoves as well as deliver important

health information. For many women, this is their first job and empowers them to earn an income, improve their standard of living, and devote some of their time to education.

**India and Cameroon:** CDC is currently engaged in preliminary work on projects designed to evaluate the health benefits of alternative cookstove and cleaner fuel interventions as well as the ability to scale-up clean and safe cooking technologies.

## Our Partners

- Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves
- Governments of India, Guatemala, Kenya, and Cameroon
- U.S. Department of State
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- World Health Organization

For further information, please visit: Global Alliance for Clean Cookstoves <http://cleancookstoves.org/>

*Women and children suffer the most as a result of household air pollution. Photo by Nigel Bruce*

